

CAUCASUS: WAR AND PEACE

The New World Disorder and Caucasia

MEHMET TÜTÜNCÜ (Ed.)

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NOTE ON transliteration

In post-Soviet studies, every author has his or her own preference of spelling. Which depends largely on the individual's background. For example, a Russian oriented author will prefer to say "Nagorno Karabakh," while a Turkish oriented writer would prefer "Upper or Mountainous Karabagh." The Russian word "Nagorno" means mountainous or higher. Should it be Karabagh or Karabakh? Heidar Aliyev or Geidar Aliev? Heidar Aliev when we refer to his role in Soviet times and Heidar Aliev when in independent Republic of Azerbaijan. We have not made any attempts to unify all the variants of transliterations used by different authors. Instead we have looked for consistency in spelling and transliteration in in the same article. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause to our readers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book would not have been possible without the immense generosity and kindness of the authors who contributed the papers presented in this book. Bruno Coppieters provided the maps.

Acknowledgement is due to H.M. Hubey, Inci Bowman, Zana Kulunk, and especially Charlie Bartholomew for their assistance in translating, editing, and proofreading the various parts of this book. I would like to thank my family, Kamile, Sultan, and Eyup Turan who have shown great understanding and respect for my work. SOTA and its activities would not have been possible without their support and cooperation.

I would like to dedicate this book to the Chechen people and especially to the memory of President Jokhar Dudayev who was killed while fighting as an ordinary soldier for the independence of his homeland. President Jokhar Dudayev and his struggle represent a light of hope for all the oppressed people of the world, from Eastern Turkestan to Cabinda his name is associated with freedom and courage. *Dik wu Jovhar, Marsh Ayl.*

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Situated on the frontiers of Europe and Asia, the Caucasus is a crossroad and gateway between Cultures and Civilizations. This famous mountainous region, where Prometheus was punished and chained to the rocks because he had stolen the fire from the gods, seems to

be the most fertile ground for ethnic violence. In recent years, the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan about Nagorno Karabagh, the Abkhazian-Georgian conflict, and the Chechen-Russian war cost more than 100,000 lives and resulted in millions of refugees.

- What are the causes of conflicts in the Caucasus? Is this an area where there will never be peace?
- What is the role of international organizations and the media in these conflicts?
- Could methods of conflict resolution help make the region less tense?
- What is the role of millions of women, who suffer the most from wars that are fought mainly by male heroes?

This book introduces the reader to the conflicts in the Caucasus and provides some answers against a background of current geopolitical rivalries and ancient historical enmities. The authors are all experts and specialists in their given field or representatives from the countries involved in conflicts. It is a book that should not be missed by experts as well as laymen who are interested in the region.

Contributors:

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